

Part of a letter of
A. Larnsworth
1845-

Groton July 20 1845

Dear Anne

So, your little wicked tussie, you have begun
to call names in good earnest. new way - warbling - cut
away; & - & then coolly tell me, that to be thus branded
must be worth the postage, 5cts. an example of cool affronting
unparalleled. The Garrisonian school must be bad when
young ladies so readily learn coarse language, & harsh epithets.
But I am unmoved. not a fibre of my frame is ruffled. I
can receive larger phials of wrath upon my devoted
head with Christian meekness, yes, forgiveness. Go on then
pour out a full stream of your indignation till the
fountain be dry, if that be possible, I shall still
remain calm as the summer sea. The truth of the
matter is, you have gone to the end, & jammed off,
& now as you find yourselves sinking lower & lower, you look
up & make mouths at me because I too won't jump off.
The cause of it is, that with nothing to stand upon, & falling
every moment with increased velocity, you should call it
taking high ground!! ~~So~~ is the greatest burlesque imaginable.
High ground! The culprit at the ropes end, swinging between
the heavens & earth, with as much propriety may say he
is on high ground. He would give much for a little solid
earth under his feet, & so will you as I shall be mistaken.

But the less serious, The M. A. S. Society has adopted a course
of policy which, I believe, to be material, injurious, if not
utterly destructive, to the unlucky cause. Their ^{grand} aim, at this
time, is quite atic, their object intensely beyond their reach. If
they could accomplish their main object & annihilate the U. S.
constitution (of which there is no danger) I believe they would
do a very bad job, it would be the greatest calamity that
could happen to the slave. How then can I assist or aid
in the work? I cannot do so & be an honest man. I must
see that the means resolved upon to accomplish an end
are appropriate. Have some apparent tendency to accomplish
that end, or I cannot work. It is not sufficient for me that
others say they see. I must see also. I can see no tendency
in the efforts now making by the society to rid the land of
slavery. On the contrary, as I view it, they ~~have~~ thrown
directly in the way of the U. S. Gov as great an obstacle as they
possibly could, & it will never move on, by their instrumen-
tality, till it is taken out of the way. But you will say
it is the constitution that supports slavery. Take that away & I follow
you are sincere in so thinking, I am equally honest in
believing just the reverse, & till I can see as you do I
can not act. I believe those who differ from me to be honest
& I shall look for a change of action as soon as they see
their error. I have no doubt you will be with me
within one year. One, an officer in the Soc. has changed his
views materially already. more will do so. In the
mean time I will patiently wait till ^{the} change of the
Society come, for come it will, or go into annihilation.
Do you now "know where to take me up?"

Ms. A. 9. 2. 21. 36